(c) the annual cost of maintaining such vessels and the benefits expected to be derived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government is acquiring Two Tuna training vessels at an estimated cost of Rs.75 crores.

(c) The annual cost of maintenance of these vessels is estimated approximately at Rs.2.75 crores. The benefits expected from these vessels are (i) achieving a total of 1300 institutional trainee days and 1600 post institutional trainee days per annum, (ii) imparting training to fishermen in new technology of tuna purse seining and (iii) disseminating information on distribution and abundance of various pelagic fish species to the end-users.

Exchange of FSI research maps and data with IOTC

1374. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to\state:

(a) whether the Central Government has given full authority to the Fishery Survey of India to exchange all its research maps and data with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission;

(b) whether the Central Government has invested a huge amount of money to complete such Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) marine surveys of Tuna in the EEZ;

(c) the reasons for sharing/exchange of valuable data with a foreign body; and

(d) the steps taken to curb such practices and monitoring the Fishery Survey of India's activities in the best interest of the Indian fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. As per the agreement signed, the Member countries including India are required to furnish information on the vessels operated and the catch taken from the IOTC managed areas to the Commission. Fishery Survey of India has been authorized to provide only such specific information to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) under intimation to the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government in the past has incurred substantial amount of money to conduct Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveys for tuna through the Fishery Institutes.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

Measures for agricultural growth

1375. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Development Council proposed a slew of measures to pep up agricultural growth which include a new additional Central assistance

commitment of Rs. 25,000/- crores over the next four years for State-specific farm strategies, a food security mission to augment production of wheat by 8 million tonnes, rice by 10 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the discussion held; and

(c) to what extent both State Governments and the Central Government have taken various steps to improve the food situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) (a) Yes, Sir. The National Development Council's resolution dated 29th May, 2007 has identified the need for introducing a new Additional Central Assistance scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture to incentivize the States to draw up plans for their agriculture sector more comprehensively. It was also proposed to introduce a Food Security Mission in the country to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes, respectively by the end of Eleventh Plan.

(b) Both the schemes are ready for implementation.

(c) It is expected that once these schemes get underway a difference will be made to the food security situation of the country.

Agricultural growth and GDP

1376. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contribution of agriculture on which more than half of the population in the country depends for its livelihood is only 22 per cent of the GDP;

(b) whether the growth rate of agriculture has declined and is merely 1.5 per cent;

(c) whether share of agriculture has declined in GDP during the past years;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have taken or propose to take measures to enhance the growth rate of agriculture and its contribution in GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) According to data compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the share of agriculture and allied sectors in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices was about 22 per cent in 2003-04, which has reduced to 18.5 per cent in the year 2006-07.

(b) Average annual growth rate during 2002-07 in agriculture and allied sectors is 2.3 per cent at constant prices (1999-2000). Table below gives the year-wise growth rates achieved in the agricultural & allied sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07).